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# ONTARIO FACTS

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# ONTARIO FACTS

**CITIZENS' INQUIRY BUREAU**  
CHARLOTTE SYKES, EDITOR



Ontario

Ministry of  
Government  
Services

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# INTRODUCTION

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THIS BOOKLET WAS PRODUCED IN RESPONSE TO requests for general information on Ontario.

It is divided into short easy-to-read sections which highlight different areas of interest in the province.

The year 1984 marks the 200th anniversary of the first permanent settlements in Ontario by United Empire Loyalists. Bicentennial celebration events will be held throughout the year. Information on bicentennial events can be obtained from the Ontario Bicentennial Committee, 965-1984.

Further information on *Ontario Facts* can be obtained from Citizens' Inquiry Bureau, Ministry of Government Services, 965-3535.

A bibliography is provided in the back of the book suggesting reference sources of a more detailed nature.





# HISTORY

## 1600-1867: From exploring days to Confederation

**F**OUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO, MEMBERS OF A number of Indian nations or tribes, about 50,000 people, lived in what is now Ontario. Among them were the Huron, who lived in scattered villages south of Georgian Bay. After the colony of Quebec was established in 1608, the Huron began to travel the river routes to trade beaver pelts with the French. Hoping to establish a wider trading network, Samuel de Champlain, the "Father of New France", visited the Huron in 1615 and gained their confidence.

In 1639, Jesuit priests founded the mission of Sainte Marie among the Hurons on the southern shore of Georgian Bay. It was the first inland European settlement in North America. Unfortunately, the Huron people fell victim to European diseases and, having no immunity, died by the thousands. Meanwhile, war broke out with the Iroquois over the fur trade rights and routes. The Iroquois and disease dispersed the weakened Huron, and the French had to abandon the mission and return to Quebec.

Several other French establishments were founded in the 17th and 18th centuries. Fort Frontenac (Kingston) in 1673, l'Assomption (Windsor) in 1749 and Fort Rouille in 1751 on the north shore of Lake Ontario within the limits of the present-day City of Toronto.

The creation of the province of Ontario came out of the train of events precipitated by the Seven Years War in Europe and the American Revolution.

After the victory of James Wolfe in Quebec in 1759, the era of French influence in North America was virtually over. The Treaty of Paris in 1763 ceded French possessions in North America to Britain.

When the American Revolution ended in 1783 there was an influx of Loyalist settlement in Ontario. United Empire Loyalists began to move onto the land along the northern shore of the St. Lawrence, to the Bay of Quinte and into the Niagara and Detroit River regions.

The Canada Act of 1791 divided what was known as Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada. A framework of government, including English civil law, trial by jury, and an elected assembly was important as the beginning of the parliamentary principle in the government of the province. Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed in 1791 as the first Governor.

In 1812 war was declared between Britain and the United States and the new colony of Upper Canada was threatened by a series of invasions. Even though the war did not change the international boundary as each side had hoped it would, it created powerful traditions of loyalty to the British connection in Canada.

The years from 1815, the end of the war, to the middle of the century marked a period of economic expansion and political and institutional development. There was a great migration from the British Isles; southern Ontario was beginning to be populated; towns such as Bytown (later Ottawa), Peterborough and Guelph were springing up. New roads were built and a system of improved channels and harbours and especially canals opened up markets both east and west, and north and south.

The rapid growth in population, economic opportunities and the development of local newspapers focussed attention on political interests and conflicts. The form of government created in 1791 created an executive with an entrenched Church of England minority, characterized by William Lyon Mackenzie as the Family Compact. In 1837, Mackenzie, a newspaper editor and radical reformer, led a rebellion against the compact. Although the rebellion was crushed, it led to many of the reforms it proposed. Lord Durham's famous *Report* led to the union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841 and established responsible government. As the century progressed, lumber became much more important than fur, small industries were established, and much of the good agricultural land was surveyed and settled.

Canadian Confederation in 1867 was the central event of this period. The motives for the creation of a national union were the need for wider free-trading areas, the desirability of coordinated railway connections, expansion west, and the need for defense arrangements. On July 1, 1867 Upper Canada (now known as Ontario), Lower Canada (Quebec), Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were federated and a new national government was established with its capital at Ottawa. The first Canadian Prime Minister was Sir John A. Macdonald, with John Sandfield Macdonald (no relation) the first Premier of Ontario.

Developments in the generation following Confederation were seriously influenced by conditions of economic depression. Agriculture was still the major interest and there was much improvement in livestock, farming methods, the use of machinery and production for export.

Manufacturing also developed but it was not until the 20th Century that Ontario was able to take full advantage of the expansion that was to affect the entire Dominion.



# GEOGRAPHY

**O**NTARIO IS THE SECOND LARGEST OF Canada's ten provinces. In population, approximately 8.5 million, it has as many people as Greece, and in area, it is as large as half a dozen European nations put together.

The province covers 1,068,582 sq km (412,582 square miles) and is bounded on three sides by water. It extends from Hudson Bay and James Bay on the north to the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes on the south, from Manitoba on the west to the Ottawa River and the province of Quebec on the east.

The land is vast and varied, changing quite suddenly from the flat bogs and coniferous forests of the Hudson Bay Lowlands to the rocky plateau of the Precambrian Shield, or Canadian Shield, to the rolling hills and fertile agricultural soil of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands.

The province used to be called "The Land of a Thousand Lakes" because there are so many more than 1,000 that no one knows exactly how many there are. The scale and importance of rivers and lakes to the province may be judged by the name itself, for in the language of its native Indians, Ontario is generally accepted as meaning sparkling or beautiful water. The lakes and rivers cover some 189,196 sq km (64,490 square miles).

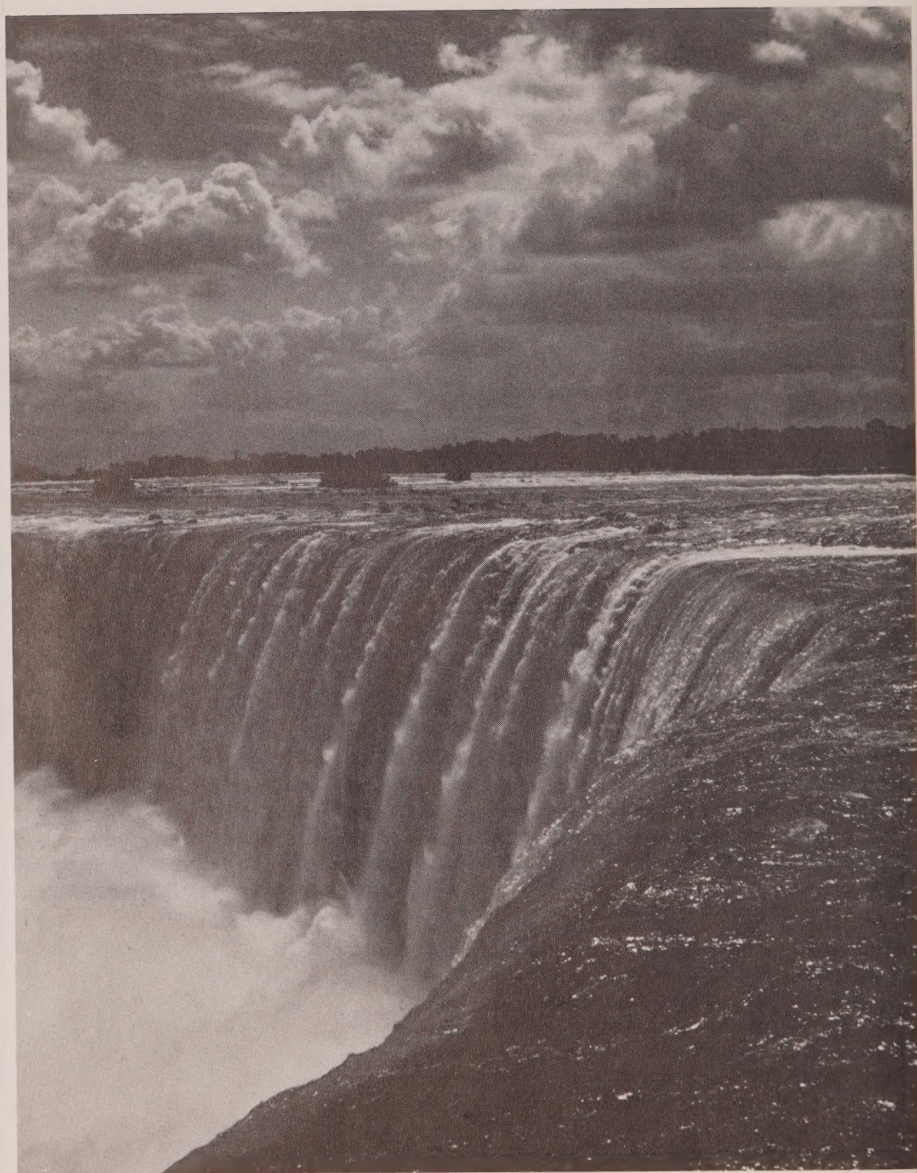
All the rivers in southern Ontario empty into the Atlantic Ocean, through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River system. Most northern Ontario rivers empty into James Bay and Hudson Bay.

- The great Lakes are the largest continuous body of fresh water in the world. They are shared by Canada and the United States.
- Manitoulin Island (2,766 sq km or 1,068 sq miles) in Lake Huron is the world's largest fresh water island. To the Indians of central Canada, it is sacred as the home of the "Great Spirits".
- Southernmost point in Canada is in Ontario, in Lake Erie's Middle Island (Lat. 41 Long. 82).
- Longest distance in Ontario east-west is 1,690 km (1,050 miles), longest distance north-south is 1,730 km (1,075 miles). Highest point is (693 m. or 2,275 ft.) in the District of Timiskaming.

## Climate

Ontario's climate ranges from humid continental in the south to subarctic in the far north.

The huge bodies of water on three sides of the province moderate the climate. They cool the summer, lessen the severity of winter, delay autumn frosts, and reduce the difference between day and night temperatures.





The lowest temperatures are usually recorded in January and the highest in July. Around the Ottawa River the average January temperature is -13 degrees C (8 degrees F), and along the southern stretch from Niagara to Windsor it is about -4 degrees C (25 degrees F). In July, average temperatures range from 23 degrees C (74 degrees F) at Pelee Island in Lake Erie to 19 degrees C (64 degrees F) in the Algonquin Park region. Along the Hudson Bay coast the mean annual air temperature is less than -4 degrees C (-25 degrees F), but in other parts of northern Ontario there is greater variation. At Kapuskasing, for example, the recorded low is -47 degrees C (-53 degrees F) and recorded high 38 degrees C (101 degrees F).

The combination of cold polar air sweeping down from the north and warm moist air flowing up from the Mississippi in the United States gives Ontario adequate precipitation throughout the year. In northern Ontario, the annual precipitation varies from 508 mm (20 inches) along the coast of Hudson Bay to approximately 889 mm (35 inches) near North Bay. Southern Ontario has an average annual precipitation of about 762 mm (30 inches) fairly evenly distributed over the twelve month period. The area of heaviest snowfall is a belt lying inland from Lake Huron and Georgian Bay where frequently more than 2,540 mm (100 inches) of snow will fall in one winter.

## Lakes bordering Ontario

Lake	Length	Breadth	Total Area
Superior	618 km	257 km	84,251 sq km
	383 mi	160 mi	32,483 sq mi
Huron	397 km	163 km	61,797 sq km
	247 mi	101 mi	23,860 sq mi
Erie	388 km	92 km	25,612 sq km
	241 mi	57 mi	9,889 sq mi
Ontario	311 km	85 km	18,940 sq km
	193 mi	53 mi	7,313 sq mi
St Clair	42 km	39 km	1,118 sq km
	26 mi	24 mi	432 sq mi





# POPULATION

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**I**N JANUARY 1983 THERE WERE 8,753,600 PEOPLE living in Ontario, an increase of 4.4% since 1976 and accounting for 35.4% of the total Canadian population. Ninety per cent of the province's people live in southern Ontario, in the industrial belt of the Golden Horseshoe, from Oshawa around to the Niagara peninsula and the rich agricultural area of the St. Lawrence Lowlands.

In the four decades since the end of the Second World War, Ontario's population has doubled and the tide of immigration has contributed to a flowering of diversity which has affected every aspect of daily life, from the languages heard on the street, the food available in homes and restaurants, to the issues spoken of in public life.

In 1951 Ontario's population was 4,597,542. By 1961 it was 6,236,092. Growth has continued not only through large-scale immigration, (in 1980, 143,117 immigrants came to Canada and 43.5 per cent selected Ontario as their destination), but because of a rising birth rate and a declining death rate.

English is the language spoken by most of Ontario's people. It is the first language of 6,678,765 residents, with French the mother tongue of 475,605. In fact, this population represents the largest French speaking minority group living in one province. Forty per cent of the French speaking population live in the eastern part of the province and 35% in northern Ontario.

Many immigrants continue to speak the language they learned as children. Major language groups (1981 census) are Italian (338,980), German (174,545), Portuguese (114,280), Chinese (89,355), Ukrainian (81,600), Netherlandic and Flemish (78,515), Polish (73,765), Greek (65,400).

There are four Indian groups within Ontario: Algonquian-speaking in the eastern half of the province, Iroquoian-speaking in the south, Ojibwa scattered throughout most parts of the province, and Cree, the majority, living mostly in the north. Of the 68,726 registered Indians (1980), 64.4% lived on reserves in the province.

The 1981 census showed 81.7% of Ontario's people living in urban centres, 18.3% in rural areas (population centres less than 1,000). Comparison with 1976 figures (81.2%, 15.4% and 3.4% respectively) shows that the earlier trend to urban living continues.

In 1901 Ontario's population was 2,182,947. It has grown ever since, with the exception of the single Depression year of 1931. In that dismal year 13 people came into the province and 14 left it, for a total loss of one person.





# AGRICULTURE

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**T**HE HISTORY OF ONTARIO IS THE STORY OF a developing agricultural adventure. Land and farming dominated the economic and social life of the province right into this century.

In the early settled years, agriculture was confined primarily to growing wheat and was largely a matter of subsistence; in the later periods of the 1800s, agriculture became more and more specialized so that it changed from being a way of life to a way of earning a living. By this century, it had started to become scientific and very productive.

Agriculture was a force here even before the advent of the white man. It has been said that no people anywhere ever made greater strides in plant selection than the North American Indians.

When the French came to live among the Hurons, they learned how to grow corn, squash and kidney beans and introduced livestock and common European vegetables to the Indians. The French, however, first settled near Detroit where they cultivated intensive orchards.

It remained for United Empire Loyalists, who came into what was to become Upper Canada (Ontario) to first settle and carve out farms along the St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario and the Niagara regions around 1783.

Wheat was the most marketable crop and was grown universally. Grist mills were built in the growing towns of the settled regions to grind wheat into flour that was either sold to the United States or exported to Montreal to be sold on commission to Britain.

These markets would also buy a quantity of the products for the forests – squared timber from pine, barrel staves from oak and wood ashes from the clearings. The work in the bush gave young settlers a ready source of cash income and a steady market for their pickled pork, oats and flour.

Three Canadians who belong to the early history of Ontario agriculture made contributions that were to gain world recognition. The first was John McIntosh, who in 1811 was clearing his farm in Dundas County when he came upon 20 small trees. One of them grew luscious fruit. He started a nursery with his son and developed the apple now grown throughout the province.

David Fife was interested in varieties of grain that could withstand attacks by pests and disease. In 1843, he sowed some grain which a friend from Scotland had obtained from a Russian cargo ship. “Red Fife” proved to be very hardy and became the chief variety sown. Many years later, it fathered another revolutionary wheat called “marquis”, used throughout the west.

Daniel Massey was the third man whose interest in farm implements prompted him in 1847 to start a small factory in Newcastle where he turned out ploughs and small tools. With his son, Hart, he secured many patent agreements for improved machinery that made his company the first large-scale manufacturer of farm implements in Canada, exporting all over the world.

After the 1850's, wheat began to lose its pre-eminence in Upper Canada. The production of livestock and livestock products, like Ontario's famous cheddar cheese, took on greater importance. Farmers with a British training in livestock management quickly turned to their homelands for improved types. To these were added later the black and white holstein dairy cattle. Commercial mixed farming had come to Ontario. With these developments came increased organization, administration and the desire to overcome rather than be overwhelmed by the persistent agricultural problems or disease, pests and climate. In 1868, the Department of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works (20 years later, the Department of Agriculture) and in 1874, the founding of the Ontario Agricultural College (now part of the University of Guelph) were moving forces in giving direction and support to the scientific approach to agriculture.

The result has meant giant strides this century in farmer productivity. These have been due mainly to the substantial control of pests and disease, to major genetic improvements to both plants and animals and to better farm technology.

In pioneer times, a farmer produced enough for his family and 90 other people. Today, on nine million acres of cropland, Ontario farmers on more than 82,000 farms are among the most productive in Canada, providing a quarter of the nation's agricultural products and processing over 40% of all the processed foods.

In addition, Ontario is the largest producer of poultry, fluid milk, eggs, mutton and fruit as well as 75% of the corn, 94% of the tobacco and all of the soybeans.

It is a close second to Alberta in finishing beef and the leader in producing hogs after Quebec.

Ontario's export performance is also impressive – more than doubled in five years (1977-82). The province currently ships nearly \$2 billion in food products to more than 50 countries of the world.

The agriculture and food system has a direct impact on other Ontario industries, such as transportation equipment, petroleum and coal products, and the chemical and chemical products industries.







# MANUFACTURING

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**O**NTARIO IS THE INDUSTRIAL CORE OF Canada, and manufacturing is the largest industry in Ontario. It employs about one-quarter of the total labour force.

The province's wealth of natural resources provides the raw materials for industry. Inexpensive electricity and other energy, plus good transportation facilities account for the industrial development. In addition, Ontario has a large domestic market and easy access to the markets of the central United States, which require 81 per cent of Ontario's exports. More than 100 million consumers live within a day's drive of the province.

The leading product in terms of number of people employed and the product value is the automobile. In 1982 approximately 90% of Canada's automobiles were manufactured in Ontario, mainly in Windsor, Oakville, Oshawa, Brampton and Hamilton.

- In 1981, Ontario's gross provincial product was \$126 billion, nearly 38 per cent of Canada's gross national product.
- Ontario produces more than 49% of all manufactured goods in Canada.
- In 1982, 44% of all exports leaving Canada originated in Ontario.
- Half of Canada's furniture manufacturing is in southern Ontario. Factories are in Toronto, Stratford, Kitchener and Napanee.
- One-quarter of Canada's pulp and paper is produced in northern Ontario.
- Printing and publishing in Ontario constitute 49% of Canada's total production. Toronto, with its numerous magazines and book publishers, is a major centre for this industry.
- Ontario's Chemical Valley is near Sarnia. The crude oil and natural gas is shipped from Alberta and processed here to produce gasoline, fuel oils, synthetic rubber, plastics, man-made fibers and many chemicals.

## Manufacturing Industries

Manufacturing Industries 1980	Value of Shipments of Goods of Ontario Manufacture \$Millions	Ontario as Percent of Canada %
Transportation Equipment Industries	13,867	73
Food and Beverage Industries	11,292	40
Primary Metal Industries	7649	57
Metal Fabricating Industries	6249	53
Electrical Products Industries	5177	67
Chemical and Chemical Products Industries	6585	59
Paper and Allied Industries	4599	32
Machinery Industries	4880	64
Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries	2771	49
Rubber and Plastics Products Industries	2611	64
Non-Metallic Mineral Products Industries	1907	45
Textile Industries	2019	46
Petroleum and Coal Products Industries	4883	34
Wood Industries	1276	15
Furniture & Fixtures Industries	1233	53
Clothing Industries	1008	26
Tobacco Products Industries	655	54
Leather Industries	592	55
Knitting Mills	283	30
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	2633	70
<b>All Industries – TOTAL</b>	<b>82,171</b>	<b>49</b>

Source – Ministry of Industry and Trade



# NATURAL RESOURCES

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**F**OREST COVERS 803,852 sq km (310,369 sq mi) of Ontario, and lumbering has long been an established industry in the province. In the mid-1800s, many farmers headed for the woods as soon as the fall harvest was stored, and spent the long winters working in logging camps. Often they were unable to see their families again until spring.

Life in the camps was primitive. The men rose before dawn and worked until dark felling and hauling the trees. They slept in crowded bunkhouses and lived almost exclusively on pork and beans. With the introduction of large machinery to replace horses, logging in Ontario took on a different character. Today the forest products sector of Ontario's economy is one of the province's important primary industries and is comprised of three major industrial groups:

The logging industry, responsible for harvesting the timber, employs 10,000 people and is a year-round operation.

The wood industries (sawmills, plywood mills, wooden box factories and wood-turning plants) process trees into various solid wood products. Many of the hundreds of sawmills across northern Ontario are small, temporary, and depend on the supply of lumber from the immediate area, but permanent settlements have grown up around the bigger mills. The larger sawmills are at Hearst, Thunder Bay and Chapleau. Much of their output is shipped to southern Ontario for use in the manufacture of furniture and for building purposes.

The paper and allied industries – pulp and paper mills, paper box and bag manufacturers – reduce wood into wood pulp and convert this into various specialty products. Canada produces 35.6% of the world's newsprint (1976 figures) and Ontario pulp and paper mills contribute more than a quarter of this.

- 94% of Ontario's forest land is Crown land, owned by the people of Ontario and managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Most of the forest land is found in northern Ontario.
- Forests in southern Ontario are noted chiefly for their recreational value, especially Algonquin Park, a 7,537 sq km (2,910 sq mi) provincially owned wilderness park.
- The forests have many fur-bearing animals. Each year about \$25,000,000 worth of furs are trapped. The majority of trappers are Indians who hold registered trapline licenses. The most important animal is the beaver, but mink, muskrat, otter, raccoon, weasel, marten, red fox and lynx also provide valuable pelts.



## Minerals

The ancient rocks of the Canadian Shield, which covers 65% of Ontario, contain many mineral deposits. The important mines at Sudbury and Cobalt in northern Ontario resulted from the accidental discovery of these deposits by railway building crews. In 1883, a blacksmith working in a roadblasting gang near present-day Sudbury uncovered sulphide ores that were found to contain copper, nickel and other minerals. In 1903, workers on another railway line near Cobalt discovered what turned out to be extensive silver deposits. As mining camps and settlements grew up around these sites, and other discoveries of diverse metals followed, Ontario began to experience a mining boom. This made a large contribution to the growth of the northern part of the province. The mining companies built towns and spurred the development of transportation, agriculture and forestry.

Today Ontario is the leading producer in Canada of nickel, cobalt, barite, uranium, cadmium, salt and structural materials, and the only producer in Canada of calcium, magnesium, nepheline syenite and platinum group metals. In 1982, it produced minerals valued at more than \$3,157 million and structural materials valued at \$618 million. The non-metallic minerals (limestone, sand, gravel, gypsum, cement and quartz) are mainly produced in southern Ontario, which also contains one of the major salt-producing areas in Canada. Sand and gravel are also produced in northern Ontario.

- The first commercial oil well in North America was drilled at Oil Springs, near Sarnia in 1858.
- The first gold rush in Ontario was near the present town of Madoc. Gold was found there in 1866, but only limited prospecting and mining occurred until the end of the century.
- Ontario is one of the world's largest producers of silver, nickel, uranium and zinc.

## Water

Much of the story of Ontario has to do with water. In the early days, the numerous rivers provided natural waterways for gaining access to the interior and opening up the province to settlement and economic development. Today water is still the most economical means of transporting bulky raw materials such as lumber, minerals and wheat.

One of the main uses of water in Ontario, apart from providing recreational facilities, is to produce hydro-electric power – the bridge between natural resources and the industries of the province. The rivers and lakes of southern Ontario are used to generate electrical energy for the manufacturing plants of the region, the chief sources being the Ottawa, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers. In northern Ontario, the many waterfalls hold promise for future development as power sources.

- The natural and artificial lakes as well as the shorelines of major rivers, provide some of the finest recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of the province.
- The Ontario Great Lakes represent a mighty natural fresh water resource, the envy of many world nations.



# THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT IN ONTARIO

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**I**N ONTARIO AS IN THE REST OF CANADA, THE Parliamentary System of Government is based almost entirely on the British System. In June of 1215, King John signed a landmark document called the Magna Carta establishing the principle that the law cannot be overruled by a Monarch. After a number of revisions, this led to our present day achievement of Responsible Government.

The British North America Act, established in 1867, divided areas of responsibility between the Federal and Provincial Governments. This provided the Provinces with jurisdiction over such things as administration of justice, maintenance of hospitals and prisons, education, the disposition of crown land and the levy of direct taxes.

The three major components of the Ontario Government are the executive, the legislative and the judiciary branches.

The Cabinet, officially called the Executive Council, formulates government policy and administers its program. The Cabinet consists of the Premier, the Provincial Secretaries of the three policy fields, (Justice, Resources Development, Social Development), Ministers directing ministries within these policy fields, the Treasurer and Minister of Economics, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Minister of Revenue, The Minister of Government Services, Ministers without portfolio and the Chairman of Management Board. The Cabinet Office provides staff support for Cabinet, the Policy and Priorities Board of Cabinet and the Cabinet Committees on Legislation, Justice, Resources Development, Social Development, and other committees as required.

The Parliament of the Province of Ontario consists of the Lieutenant Governor, who is the representative of the Queen, and the Legislative Assembly, which consists of the elected representatives of the people.

In Ontario, there are currently 125 Members of Provincial Parliament, one elected for each riding or constituency in the Province. These MPP's hold office through elections held at least once every five years.

Following each general election, the Lieutenant Governor invites the leader of the party with the most elected members to become premier and form a government.

The Premier chooses an Executive Council. These members are called ministers, and they make up the Cabinet of the Ontario Government. All members are elected members of the Legislative Assembly.

There are three main functions of the Legislative Assembly, legislative, financial and critical. The first is to consider proposals for legislation of bills; to enact, amend and repeal legislation. The second principal role of the Assembly is to authorize the collection of funds from the people of Ontario to pay for the programs which they, through their elected representatives, have approved. Thirdly, the Legislative Assembly criticizes the policies put forth by the Premier and the Cabinet to ensure that policies are in the best interests of the public.

The judiciary is responsible for the administration of justice by adjudicating civil and criminal disputes through the Ontario courts system which is constituted by provincial statute. Provincial court judges are appointed provincially by the Lieutenant-Governor-In-Council; county, district court and Supreme Court of Ontario judges are appointed federally by the Governor-In-Council. Courts administration is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Attorney General.

## Time of Sittings

The Legislative Assembly is usually in sessions from March until the end of June. There is a summer recess and the House resumes in October and sits until late December. Although the hours of a sitting may be changed, the House normally sits on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.. On Tuesday and Thursday there is a two-hour dinner break, and the House resumes sitting at 8:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.. On Friday the House usually sits from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m..

## Question Period

The first item of business in the House immediately following "Ministerial Statements" is Question Period. Question Period lasts an hour and allows Members to question Cabinet Ministers on any item of public concern.

The Speaker first calls upon the leader of the Opposition, then the Leader of the Third Party, to ask two questions each. Afterwards, the first Member to raise a question is recognized by the Speaker. Questions are then alternated from one party to another until the end of Question Period.

Question Period provides an opportunity for the Opposition to voice its concerns publically over the performance of the Government. It is not surprising that the hour is often the most volatile and exciting aspect of the Legislature and it is open to the public.

## The Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is the Queen's representative in the Province. He or she is appointed on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of Canada. The Lieutenant Governor signs all bills into law, and acts as the Province's host for visiting dignitaries as well as during ceremonial occasions. In addition, the Lieutenant Governor reads the Speech from the Throne at the start of each Session of Parliament. The Speech from the Throne announces to the public what legislation the Government intends to introduce in the upcoming Session. The Lieutenant Governor also prorogues (dissolves) the Legislature.

## Bills

A draft act of Parliament begins as a bill. If the bill is passed through the Legislature, it becomes a statute or law.

There are three types of bills:

- Private Bills
- Private Members' Public Bills
- Public or Government Bill

"Private Bills" are submitted on behalf of an individual or corporation. They are usually of limited public import, dealing with one specific town, company, institution, etc. This type of bill is often introduced by a Private member in whose riding the bill was initiated.

“Private Members’ Public Bills” are introduced into the House by any Member other than a Cabinet Minister. This type of bill may be used to draw the attention of the Members of the Legislature to some specific policy item. These bills may not propose the expenditure of public funds or amendments to any taxation policy.

The most common type of bill in the Legislature is a “Public or Government Bill”. These are introduced by a Cabinet Minister and must go through three readings before becoming law. The first reading of a Government bill introduces it into the House. The bill may then proceed to a second reading. The purpose of the second reading is to obtain approval of the principle enunciated in the bill. If the bill passes its second reading, the Speaker may ask if the bill should be read a third time. If even one Member dissents, then the bill must be sent to an appropriate Committee for a clause-by-clause review of the bill. Once the Committee has completed its review, the bill is then sent back to the House and, provided there is unanimous consent, is ready for third reading. The motion for third reading is usually carried without much debate, although a short statement of any opposition is permitted before a vote is taken.

The final step is the ceremonial signing of the bill by the Lieutenant Governor. This act is called “Royal Assent” and takes place either in the Chamber or the Lieutenant Governor’s suite.

## Glossary

**Act:** A bill which has become law.

**Amendment:** Proposed alteration of motion or bill.

**Bill:** A draft Act of Parliament as presented to the House.

**Backbenchers:** Members of the government and opposition parties who occupy the back benches in the House. The front benches are occupied by party leaders, Cabinet and critics.

**Budget:** Annual statement of expenditures to be undertaken by the Provincial Government for the fiscal year. It is presented to the House each spring by the Treasurer of Ontario.

**Cabinet:** (*Executive Council*) Made up of the Premier, Provincial Secretaries, Ministers and the Chairman of Management Board, Cabinet exercises the Executive Power for the Government of Ontario.

**Caucus:** Each party’s elected members form the Caucus for that Party.

**Executive Council:** (*see Cabinet*)

**Fiscal year:** The fiscal year in Ontario begins on April 1 and ends on March 31.



**Legislation:** A term used both for the process by which a law is made and for a law after it has been enacted.

**Majority Government:** This occurs when the party in power has the majority of seats in the House.

**Minority Government:** This occurs when the number of seats belonging to both opposition parties is greater than the number of seats belonging to the Government party.

**Ombudsman:** An officer of the Legislature who may investigate any decision, recommendation, act or omission made in the administration of any Ministry or Agency of the Ontario Government.

**Order paper:** Daily Agenda for the Legislature.

**Parliament:** This is the period starting from the opening of the first session immediately following a general election to the dissolution of the Legislature and the calling of a new election by the Lieutenant Governor.

**Prorogation:** The ending of a session of Parliament.

**Quorum:** There must be at least twenty members in the House in order for the continuation of business; this is known as a Quorum.

**Recess:** A period during which the House breaks for a long period of time. The House usually recesses for the summer months and again at Christmas.

**Royal Assent:** Once a bill has passed through the Legislature, it must receive Royal Assent; this is given by the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor enters the House and nods approval of the bill. Royal Assent is then pronounced by the Clerk of the House.

**Select Committee:** A Select Committee is a committee appointed by the House for a particular purpose not covered by a Standing Committee. A Select Committee is established through a motion from a member in the House.

**Session:** This is the period beginning with the opening of Parliament to the day it is prorogued or dissolved. There must be a Session of the Legislature at least once a year.

**Standing Committee:** Standing Committees are established at the beginning of each session of Parliament and are of a more permanent nature than **Select Committees**. All parties in the House have a proportionate number of Members on the Standing Committees.

**Whips:** Each party has one Member who is known as the Party Whip. The Whip ensures that his party is adequately represented both in the House and in the various committees. He is also responsible for getting Members into the House for votes.



# CITIES

## Toronto

**Population: 2,140,347**

**T**ORONTO IS THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL and financial centre of Canada. The site upon which it is located has always been important in the history of North America. Before European explorers arrived, Toronto was known as the 'place of meeting', the beginning of an Indian portage route which linked Lake Ontario to the Upper Great Lakes and the interior of the continent. With the arrival of the French in the early 17th century it became an important rendezvous point for the fur trade. French forts were established at the present sites of Kingston and Toronto. In 1763 after the Seven Years War in Europe when France ceded her North American possessions to Britain, Ontario was virtually an unsettled fur-traders' paradise. The Loyalist migration after 1783 influenced the character of the growing centre. A framework of government, including English civil law, was quickly established under the first governor, Colonel John Graves Simcoe, who was appointed in 1791. From that time on, York (renamed Toronto in 1834) grew steadily. In 1867 Toronto became the capital of the newly created Province of Ontario.

Throughout the last three decades, Toronto has become accustomed to heading the list of North America's fastest-growing cities. It is Canada's principal wholesale and retail distributing centre and one of its busiest ports. The Toronto Stock Exchange is the largest in Canada, and most Canadian book and magazine publishers, television networks, and big banks have their head offices in Toronto.

Not only is Toronto a nice place to live, it's a nice place to visit. It has over 80

performing art companies, dozens of theatres, dance companies, hundreds of restaurants and both professional and amateur sports facilities. Toronto has something to offer everyone.

The Toronto waterfront is one of the most accessible and imaginative in North America. It combines two huge parks with hotels and housing and links up with the Canadian National Exhibition Place, home of the National Horse show and a major sports stadium.

## Ottawa

**Population: 562,782**

**O**TTAWA, THE CAPITAL OF CANADA, WAS FIRST settled in the early 1800s. Rising dramatically from a bluff overlooking the Ottawa River are the great stone Gothic Parliament Buildings. They are the focal point of a city with an historic blend of English and French cultures. Situated right on the borders between Ontario and Quebec, it bridges the two founding cultures of Canada. It was this strategic position that led Queen Victoria to proclaim it the capital of United Canada in 1857 and with confederation in 1867 it became the capital of the Dominion.

Ottawa was once a brawling lumber town like many others in young Canada. It was located on an important transportation route used earlier by fur traders going to and from the interior. It is the northern terminus of the Rideau Canal, completed in 1832 under the supervision of Colonel By, and known then as Bytown.

Prior to World War I, Ottawa's economy depended on industry, but with the onset of war, federal government employees were increased and government became the backbone of the city's economy.



Ottawa is a mix of old and new, English and French, business and politics. You can browse along elegant shopping streets, visit numerous museums, or skate along the Rideau in the winter. Careful planning and controlled development has served the city well.

## Hamilton

**Population 308,102**

**H**AMILTON WAS ESTABLISHED AS A SETTLEMENT in the late 1700s when the first Loyalist families began to arrive in Upper Canada. A formal townsite was laid out in 1813.

Because Hamilton was not on any natural transportation route, it did not begin its history as an important industrial centre until the mid-1800s when the Great Western Railway was routed through the town. From this point, Hamilton began to prosper. Iron foundries and machine shops were built and the population soared. When the Welland Canal was completed in 1845, shipping between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie began.

Hamilton's economic importance increased as there was now access to inexpensive coal from Pennsylvania.

Hamilton's function as a financial and trading centre declined after 1870, but its importance as an iron and steel centre continued to grow. Today the city produces 60% of Canada's steel requirements. Because hydro-electric power is readily available from Niagara River developments, it has attracted many secondary industries. These include the production of wire, heavy machinery, electrical

equipment, chemicals, meat and food products and paper products. It is also an important marketing centre for the rich agricultural area of the Niagara Peninsula.

An area of contrast, Hamilton is both the Steel Capital of Canada and home of the Royal Botanical Gardens. The world-renowned Hamilton Place attracts international stars and houses the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and Opera Hamilton.

## London

**Population: 266,319**

**L**ONDON WAS ORIGINALLY SELECTED BY Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe to be the future capital of Upper Canada. Strategically, it seemed relatively safe from American attack and in a good position to oversee western expansion. However, the pleasant valley remained largely unsettled until 1826 when Peter McGregor became its first settler. He built a cabin near the forks. It later served as a tavern and meeting place.

London was officially incorporated as a town in 1840. It was destroyed by fire followed by a wave of typhus in 1845. It was however, quickly rebuilt. With the coming of the railway in the 1850s, it began to boom. By 1854 the population was over 10,000 and London was on the brink of becoming a major manufacturing and distributing centre. Its industries included iron, textiles, woodworking and food processing. Today, printing and paper products, electrical appliances and heavy machinery are equally central to London's economy.

London is known as the Forest City because of its numerous and beautiful trees. It is also the home of the University of Western Ontario.

## Windsor

**Population: 192,546**

**A**T A TIME WHEN THE REST OF ONTARIO WAS still a wilderness, several hundred French settlers were living along the shores of the Detroit River. On the Canadian side, most of them lived near the present site of Windsor, the first continuous white settlement in Canada west of Montreal.

Windsor was established as a stage-coach village in 1828. It was originally called The Ferry, after the log canoe which was used to carry passengers and freight to and from the larger centre of Detroit across the River. By 1837, it had become known as Richmond, and was described by one visitor as "a little straggling hamlet, with one little wretched steamboat, some windmills, and a Catholic chapel or two".

In 1858, Richmond was incorporated as the town of Windsor. Four years earlier it had become the terminus of the Great Western Railway, and it now had a year-round connection with the eastern part of the province. This, plus the enlargement of navigation facilities on the Great Lakes, brought the industrial era to Windsor. In 1904 the Ford automobile company opened a Canadian factory there. It was soon followed by other automobile companies, making Windsor the capital of that industry in Canada.

The French influence in Windsor is still evident. French is the second language of the city, and it is one of the few centres outside the province of Quebec to be designated a bilingual-bicultural area by the federal government. It is the home of Assumption College.

## Sudbury

**Population: 157,856**

**S**UDBURY BEGAN AS A SMALL STATION AT A railroad junction. During its early years, the timber companies were the main source of industry, but when copper ore was discovered and the Sudbury Basin was opened up by prospectors, mining became very important. The first copper smelter began operation in 1880. When Sudbury was incorporated as a town in 1893, it had a population of approximately 1,000. Then people from all over the world flocked to the area to work in the mines, and it became a melting pot of nationalities. By the time it was incorporated as a city in 1930, its population was 18,000.

Today Sudbury is no longer just a mining town. It is the centre of the northeastern trading region of Ontario. The Sudbury basin provides about one-quarter of the western world's output of nickel and 4.2% of its copper, approximately 30% of Canada's total copper production. Other industries include paper making, the manufacture of building and construction materials, and the production of sulphuric acid.

The Sudbury area has a unique resemblance to the terrain on the moon. It is presumed these conditions were caused by a meteorite. Before the first American astronauts left on their trip to the moon, they rehearsed rock-collection techniques near Sudbury.





## St. Catharines

**Population: 123,644**

**W**HAT IS NOW ST. CATHARINES BEGAN AS A tiny settlement of Loyalists and disbanded troops who remained loyal to Britain during the American Revolution. It was originally known as Twelve Mile Creek or The Twelve. Over the years, the name of the community was changed several times. At one point it was known as Shipman's Corners, identifying with the owner of an early tavern where stage horses were changed. The origin of the present name is obscure, but it came into regular use after 1829. St. Catharines was incorporated as a town in 1845 and as a city in 1876.

The community expanded after the 1812 war between the British and the Americans. This was largely due to the efforts of the mill owner William Hamilton. He was the chief promoter of the first Welland Canal which make St.

Catharines a centre for water transportation, and provided water power for industry. The community also became a leading flour-milling and shipbuilding centre. Although the early flour mills no longer exist, the paper mills, ship yards and coachmaking industries remain today in their modern form. An important addition has been the food and beverage industry.

St. Catharines claims many firsts. Originally a Loyalist settlement, St. Catharines was a depot of the "Underground Railroad"; the site of the first Welland Canal; had the first electric street-car system in North America; generated the first hydro energy for long distance transmission. The city is in the heart of the wine country and the Niagara fruit belt, where half of Ontario's entire output of fruit is grown.

Because of the bountiful harvest and abundance of garden produce, St. Catharines is commonly called the Garden City.



## Thunder Bay

**Population: 111,498**

**T**HUNDER BAY IS THE CONNECTION LINK FOR trade between eastern and western Canada. Located at the exact centre of Canada, 2,000 miles from the sea at the top of the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes system, it is the furthest western terminus of ocean-going freighters which ply the St. Lawrence Seaway. The first post was built in the area in 1678, 22 years after the north shore of Lake Superior had initially been explored by the French. The post operated until 1758, at the end of the French regime in Canada. In 1803 it was acquired by the Northwest Fur Trading Company and named the New Fort. In 1807 the name changed to Fort William, for the Governor of the company, William McGillavray.

In 1857 a small settlement was established four miles north of Fort William and known as The Station. Prospectors working out of The Station discovered the silver mines in the area in 1868. In 1869 the settlement was named Prince Arthur's Landing in honor of Queen Victoria's son, and in 1884 the name was changed to Port Arthur.

The communities of Port Arthur and Fort William were amalgamated as the new city of Thunder Bay in 1970. Today Thunder Bay is the third largest seaport in Canada and the distribution centre for a vast area of northwestern Ontario. Its industries include pulp and paper mills, shipping, tourism, transportation of minerals, and manufacturing of heavy equipment for mines and forests.

## Kingston

**Population: 60,313**

**T**HE SITE WHERE KINGSTON NOW STANDS WAS recognized as an important military and commercial location by the French in the 1670s. The fort that they built, at a place the Indians called Cataraqui "rocks rising out of the water", was the first attempt at colonization in what is now Ontario. Cataraqui was subsequently named Fort Frontenac for Count Frontenac, Governor of New France, and for many years it was used as a base for further exploration on the Great Lakes. It also became an important trading post.

After the capture and destruction of Fort Frontenac by the British in 1758, it lost importance as a military installation. The Loyalists began to arrive in 1783, however, and it was re-established as a fort and was thought of as a nucleus for future development. During the first half of the 19th century it became the naval and military capital of Ontario. In 1846 Kingston was incorporated as a city.

Today it is the home of Queen's University and the Royal Military College and attracts many tourists because of its location between the Rideau Lakes and the Thousand Islands. Its industries include the manufacture of aluminum goods, heavy machinery, ceramics and chemicals.

**Population figures based on 1982 Census.**



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